

Insides:

Interview with Ghislain Picard

page 6

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The McGill Daily

Desperately seeking recruits since 1911

NOT ON THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS

Project Censored Canada releases list of under-reported issues in the media

by M-J Milloy

'All the news that's fit to print' does not seem to be the motto for many Canadian media organisations, according to a recent list of under-reported stories prepared by Project Censored Canada.

The list is composed of 10 stories of major importance to Canadians which have been ignored by most mainstream media outlets.

They range from articles about overlooking costly non-violent crime by Canadian professionals and corporations, to articles describing the Canadian government's support for resettlement projects funded by the World Bank.

"Why some seemingly important stories don't make big news, but some trivial ones do, is one key issue facing Canadian journalism," said Bill Daskoch, a reporter at the Regina Leader-Post and one of the compilers of the list.

Project Censored Canada is an organisation founded in the late-eighties by the Department of Communications at Simon Fraser University, the University of Windsor and the Canadian Association of Journalists. It is modeled on a similar group in the United States.

9 of 10 stories on this year's censored list are directly or indirectly related to economic concerns, leading some commentators to suggest that growing corporate control of the Canadian media is at the heart of the reason for omissions.

"We seem to be seeing evidence for the systematic exclusion of material which presents free market economics and private enterprise in a negative light," wrote media commentator James Winter in a recent issue of *Canadian Dimensions*.

Winter believes that the media is tacitly agreeing with the neo-conservative agenda of big business and financial institutions, and aiding and abetting the political agendas of deficit-cutters across Canada.

"These top censored stories had as their central focus views which challenge or oppose corporate ownership values," wrote Winter.

PABLUM FOR THE PEOPLE
Not only has the mainstream

media overlooked important issues, according to Winter, but the focus on sensational crimes — especially the O.J. Simpson and Paul Bernardo trials — has distracted people from more important issues.

"The media are adept at the

magician's trick of misdirection, or distracting audiences away from important matters and directing them to the trivial and unimportant," according to Winter.

This corporate control has

a massive effect on public debate, and the ability of people to make informed political statements, according to Winter. The result is the "depoliticisation of the populace, a dumbing down of political thought."

Kim Goldberg, a freelance journalist who writes for many alternative and mainstream publications in British Columbia, agreed with Winter's analysis.

"The emphasis on 'bread and circuses' issues in the media makes us unable to think as individuals," she said.

"The media don't show the larger reasons behind events. We get famines, blockades, even 'ethnic cleansing' presented as isolated events, with no larger structural explanations," she said.

In this environment, news becomes "a fistful of sand thrown in your eyes, isolated particles with no context or analysis."

As well, the creation of the deficit hysteria, in Goldberg's view, has been "part of a red herring-like strategy to keep people distracted."

Goldberg added that this obsession over the deficit in the mainstream media has served the purposes of certain sectors in business and finance.

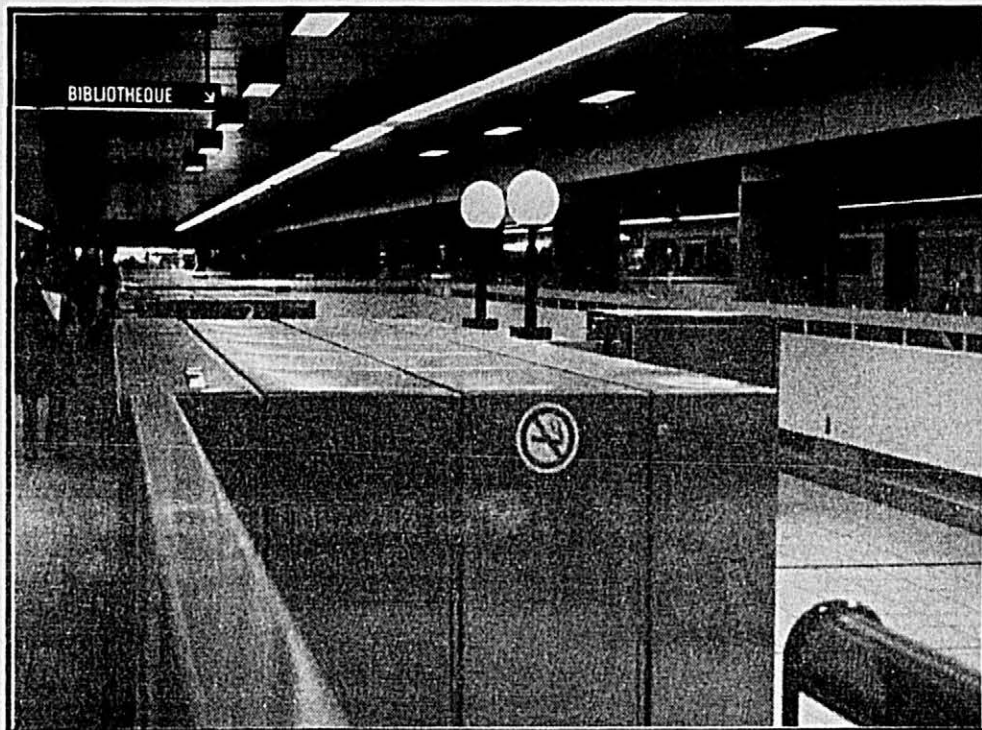
"It serves the corporate interest by providing the deficit as a pretext for slashing government social programmes. Less social programmes mean a more desperate, and less united, work force to bargain with employers," she said.

In some cases, corporations have exerted direct pressure over newspapers to make them conform to their political agenda, according to Goldberg.

She cited the case of one major Vancouver daily newspaper which was forced to change its editorial policies towards logging in British Columbia after "the forestry lobby very openly exerted

Bourque hits the books

MONTRÉAL LIBRARIES CLOSED



by Andrea Cooke

McGill Metro library closed

Libraries — an important role in any community and an asset to cash-strapped students — have recently come under threat in Montréal. In the midst of City Hall budget discussions in December, Montréal Mayor Pierre Bourque proposed cuts and closures within the library system.

Bourque's administration first planned to close a total of four libraries, citing the need to save \$373 500 for the 1996 fiscal year. In the end, the City closed two: the one in McGill Metro and the annex to the Central Library, east of downtown.

Due to a public outcry and a series of demonstrations in December, Bourque put a one year moratorium on the closing of the two other libraries on the chopping

block, the Georges-Vanier and Benny libraries.

While these two libraries are still threatened by next December's budget, the City is hoping that discussions with library users will resolve the issues surrounding possible closures.

But opposition councilor Marvin Rotrand has cast some doubt on those discussions. "What the City perceives as solutions is far from clear. The moratorium gives the communities involved time to keep lobbying to save their libraries, but the moratorium did not add money to an under-funded and inadequate library system."

Montréal spends less per capita on its libraries than any other major Canadian city and is far below the national

average of book purchases.

"Montréal is not competitive in a lot of areas. One of the areas we are not competitive in is our library systems. It is one of the worst library systems in Canada. We spend far less on book acquisitions and on networks to service the population," says Rotrand.

Helen Fotopulos, councilor from Mile-End is also critical of the move to close the libraries. "Local responsibilities for local libraries is something we have to develop in Montréal," says Fotopulos.

She says that by shutting down the McGill Metro library, there are no public libraries left in the downtown vicinity. The closest thing downtown Montrealers have is the Atwa-

continued on page 10

continued on page 10

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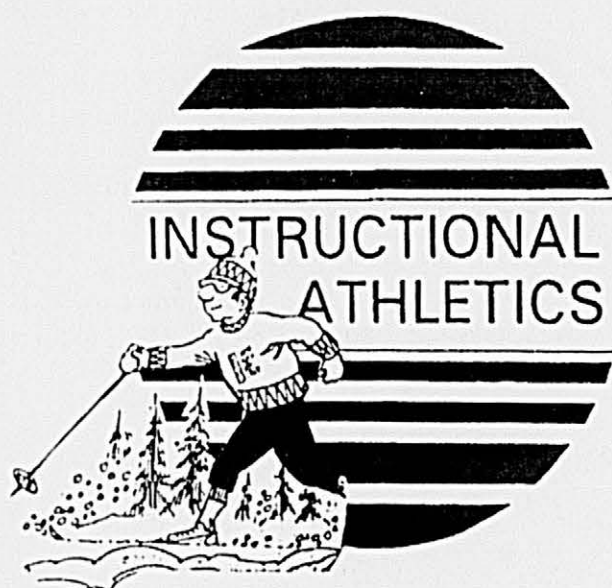
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comment

UNSPOKEN WORDS

6:30 a.m. The sun was just starting to peek through the mountains on the horizon. We only had another fifteen minutes to reach the perfect spot in the Painted Desert to do some landscape work of the sunrise. This was Navajo land in Arizona, the middle of the desert, no one on the road.

Six of us decided to take a road trip through California, Nevada and Arizona this winter break to get away from everyone and spend some time in the desert. We didn't have a car big enough for all six of us, so we ended up taking two cars. Kumaran, who is brown, drove the car I was in, and Mike, who is white, decided to drive the Mercedes.

So we were driving 90 mph in a 55 mph zone, trying to reach the mountains in time to set up our cameras in time to catch the sunrise, when a different set of red and blue lights appeared behind us. We had been driving for half an hour at 90 mph and now we realized that it was time to pay the piper.

The cop pulled in between us and we all stepped off the road in a desolate part of the desert. Recognising that we were at fault, we had no plans to argue with the cop, just get the ticket and leave to catch what we could of the sunrise.

We rolled our window down expecting the usual monologue of "driver's license and registration please" but instead the cop began by saying "I should drag the three of you back to Flagstaff and throw you in jail!" Good morning to you too.

Our encounter began with a threat and continued in a

belligerent tone on his part and three more threats of jail time and worse. Finally we were issued the ticket and left without a word; we were fuming and I didn't need to make the situation worse by opening my big mouth.

When we finally reached our destination, the whole party got together to set up cameras and talk about what just happened. The first thing out of my mouth was "That cop was a fucking asshole!" My friends from the other car were shocked to hear me say such a thing. They countered that the cop was nice and courteous to them.

Apparently the cop was very pleasant to them talking about how nice the weather was and how they should be careful and not drive so fast because if an animal should happen to wander on to the road, they would need to swerve safely out of the way. The only warning that we got was to shut up or else we would be thrown into jail.

With this in mind, we compared the tickets we got. Our ticket, which was given to a brown male driver was clocked at 88+ mph and was a criminal offense. Mike, the other driver who happened to be white, who was driving at the same speed down the same stretch of highway at the same time, was given a ticket clocked at 85+ mph and was only a civil offense.

I always like to think that people aren't racist anymore and that there is more understanding in the world, but this encounter shook me. My vacation in the desert hadn't been as relaxing as I had hoped and this didn't help at all. This was perhaps the most blatant example of the racial

harassment that I had experienced, though not the only one in Arizona. There were comments made at restaurants and bad service all around, but this ticket was basically stamped white/non-white.

This is not to say that all Arizonans are racists but there are still some assumptions, some unsaid notions and rules of conduct that look first at the colour of a person's skin before looking at the person. It is disappointing, aggravating and infuriating.

With all this talk about ending racism, the system falls far short. Racism exists today, perhaps in a more subversive form because it is unsaid. The cop never called me a 'Chink' or a 'Chinaman', but his attitude and actions spoke louder than words.

The phenomenon is not unique to Arizona, but fits into this trend of shoot first and ask questions later.

Dudley George, a 35 year old unarmed native man was shot in the back by the Ontario Provincial Police at Ipperwash, Ontario and refused medical treatment until he had basically bled to death. Last summer, Montrealese Martin Suazo was shot in the head for shoplifting and, more recently, a black woman was physically harassed at the McGill Metro just for taking two bus transfers. And the list goes on.

How much longer can we let this keep going on without speaking out and changing something?

Racism is not dead; it has shed its skin.

Comment by Derek Fung

letters

When it snows...

To the Daily,

I found your article "Icy building looking better than real ones" by J. Reis in this week's *McGill Daily* quite disheartening. Undergraduate students in the School of Architecture, training to become professional architects, are given very few experiences during their four years of education at McGill to participate in a real building project. The replica of the Roman pantheon currently being constructed on the lower campus is not only a unique opportunity to construct a relatively inexpensive building, it is also a chance for second-year design students to examine

the structure and proportions, firsthand, of what is often considered one of the most significant edifices on the planet. All professional programs at McGill attempt to simulate "real life" experiences for their students. Medical students dissect real bodies; law students argue cases in moot court. The only difference between these examples and the "pricey snow" Pantheon is that it is located outside the ivory tower, for all to learn from and enjoy.

Ms. Reis' suggestions that the building will become a "watery mess" is equally short-sighted. The "pricey snow" of the Pantheon will simply melt back into the earth, producing no waste.

Snow is, indeed, the ultimate recyclable building material.

Finally, the funds for the Pantheon project came from private donors. Let's hope that this article does not discourage them (and others) from supporting such valuable educational projects at McGill.

Dr. Annmarie Adams
Associate Professor, McGill
School of Architecture

... It pours

To the Daily,

Reading Ms. Reis' "Not a snowman" article" (*McGill Daily Culture*, January 11, 1996) on the ice structure that my students and I are building on the lower campus, I must conclude that whereas the

Daily used to be written by dour Marxist-Leninists, we now have dour bean counters running the shop.

"Why is a University that is slashing its faculties' budgets raising money for snow birthday presents?" asks your reporter wagging her finger. She might also have wondered why people would volunteer their time over the Christmas break to get a head start on a unique opportunity for students and staff to create a large-scale experimental structure, and celebrate the School of Architecture's Centenary, McGill's 175th, and winter in general. Instead of counting beans contributed by the private sector, she might have focused on the mechanism employed to

convince private enterprise to fund efforts like these, allowing faculty to engage in innovative teaching approaches despite the slashed budgets that rightly concern the *Daily*.

Instead of dourly criticising the structure for being 'temporary' (no kidding, ever been to a party?), and an \$8 000 watery mess (no mess, just water — and no demolition costs, Ms. Reis!), a bit of upbeat support might have made the cold easier on students and staff, as well as possibly loosening the purse strings of sponsors of future University projects.

Pieter Sijpkens
Associate Professor of
Architecture

PARLIAMENT RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

by Ester Oh

Toronto (CUP)—The Federal parliament unanimously approved a motion last month to recognise February as Black History Month.

Although Black History Month has been proclaimed in a number of municipalities and provinces, this is the first time it is being officially recognised all over Canada.

The motion was initiated by Jean Augustine, parliamentary secretary to the prime minister and Ontario MP (Etobicoke-Lakeshore).

Augustine says she is delighted the motion was approved unanimously and without debate.

"I am very happy the House of Commons has declared February Black History Month. The national identification and celebration of black history is a significant way to affirm the contributions of

African Canadians.

"It will educate [and] increase awareness of issues of diversity, anti-racism, and most of all, the achievements of the black community in Canada," the MP remarked.

John Ohisa Oyemu, president of University of Toronto's African Students' Association, says the declaration may help raise awareness about black history, which he says has been misrepresented previously.

"I think what the Parliament of Canada has done is a very good thing. We must recognise that blacks do have

a history. Unfortunately, our history has been distorted. This has been mostly done by



DAILY GRAPHIC BY AIMEE WORRELL

Western historians who have not given an accurate account

of history. By recognising Black History Month, we are celebrating black history at the public level, a step beyond the dubious, biased accounts of the West."

Rosemary Sadler, president of the Ontario Black History Society, says the celebration of Black History Month emphasises an awareness of the accomplishments of black people in Canada's history.

Referring to some examples of black history in Canada, she points to Matthieu Dacosta, a man of African descent, who was an interpreter for Samuel de

Champlain in his dealings with the Mic Mac natives.

Sadler also says that black soldiers helped defend Upper Canada against invading Americans in the War of 1812, and adds that blacks helped build railways and trains and worked as inventors, farmers and scholars.

The society is a non-profit charitable organisation dedicated to the study of black history for all people.

It successfully petitioned the city of Toronto for official recognition of Black History Month in 1979 and pushed for and received a provincial proclamation in 1994.

The society worked with Augustine to petition for a national black history month.

Source: The Varsity

ACTIVIST WEEK IN THE WORKS

February 12-16: practical ways to make a difference

By Jack Sullivan

For the first time in recent McGill history, student organisations will unite to coordinate an Activist Week. The week is intended to raise awareness regarding issues of interest to campus and community groups, and will also offer a variety of practical seminars to aid activists.

The goal of the Activist Week Coordinating Committee is to provide a high profile event in support of groups working towards effecting a positive social change.

According to Alison Dudley, the co-ordinator of Activist Week, many people feel unable to do anything about a variety of important issues that have flooded modern society.

"It's sad to see a society feel that it cannot change things," said Dudley.

"We've got to create a well-informed group of people to watch these things going on."

Dudley felt that students have an important role to play in regards to these issues, which will have a strong influence on the world they inherit. Dudley noted that students generally have the available time and resources to champion the causes of a variety of groups.

"An activity like this will give students more possibilities for now and for later," she said.

Activist Week will be a cooperative initiative combining the resources of the McGill chapter of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG), the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU), and the Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS). Dudley said the partnership of the three organisations should prove productive.

"We wanted to do this all together: SSMU, QPIRG, and PGSS. There has never before been a forum for people working towards the same thing," said Dudley.

Response from numerous student groups has encouraged the Activist Week organisers. Over one dozen groups have eagerly committed to participating in the week's events, and groups including QPIRG and the Inter-Residence Council have provided financial backing.

In what is being described by Dudley as "networking for activists", groups will set up individual kiosks on the opening day of Activist Week. Through the kiosks and presentations, they will be

able to inform other groups of their upcoming projects, and recruit new members. Panel discussions and presentations with guest speakers will also be organised by the individual groups.

"We're asking other groups to come up with items that they can plug through the week," said Dudley.

The week will also offer training seminars for the participants on activities ranging from fundraising, to accessing coverage in the media. Montréal City Counselor Sam Bosky will instruct participants on dealing with municipal governments, and relations with student, provincial, and federal governments will also be a part of the programme.

"Our main emphasis is to encourage awareness and provide the tools for groups to work with," said SSMU Counselor Chris Carter, another member of the team planning the Activist Week.

Carter further emphasised that the conference will be accessible and relevant to all students at McGill.

"It is going to be very open," he said. "The aim wasn't to be exclusive."

Dudley noted that the title of the event should not deter

interested students from attending.

"Activism does not necessarily have to be a radical thing," she said.

Dudley added that there is more to an activist week than many people realise.

"We're trying to show people that there is a lot out there to get involved in, and

show them how easy it is to get involved," emphasised Dudley.

McGill Activist Week will be held from February 12-16. For more information, contact Alison Dudley of QPIRG McGill at 398-7432, or Chris Carter of SSMU at 398-6800.

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Events

MONDAY, JAN. 15

• McGill Christian Fellowship presents "The Gospel According to Robin Williams," 11h30, Leacock 232.2

TUESDAY, JAN. 16

• Yvan Lamonde on "Liberalism and nationalism in the 19th Century: the cases of Papineau and Dessaulles," 16h, Thomson House, 3650 McTavish.

• Physical and Occupational Therapy Dept. Variety Show "Tuesday Night Fever," 19h30, Shatner Ballroom. Buy tickets now or at the door. Call Anick: 495-4863 or Catherine: 649-

0385.

• McGill Christian Fellowship tea-time talk, "Making Sense of Evil and Suffering," 16h, Leacock 232, in English and Mandarin.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

• EarthSave McGill's EarthSave Video Night, 20h, Shatner Bldg., rm. B09-10. "Diet for a New America." Call Mark Berman: 289-9532.

• LBGT's Bisexual Group, 17h30, Women's Union, Shatner 423. Both men and women welcome.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18

• McGill Students' International Development Initiative meets 17h30, Shatner caf. Call 844-1530.

• QPIRG General Interest

Meeting and Open House. Call 398-7432.

• McGill Women's Union open house, 16h-18h, Shatner 423.

• LBGT's Womyn's Group meets, Women's Union, Shatner 423, 18h30.

• Auditions for Concordia TV3 drama production. First Nations persons preferred. Call Allyson: 691-6045 or Johanne: 485-5942.

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

• Clinic on budgeting and money management, 14h45-15h45, Powell Student Services Bldg., rm. 205.

• McGill African Students' Society's The Biggest Jam Ever, 21h-3h, Shatner 2nd floor, admission \$5.

• LBGT's Coming Out Group meets, basement of UTC (3521 University, near Milton).

• LBGT's General Discussion Group meets, basement of UTC (3521 University, near Milton), 19h.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

• McGill Taiwanese Students' Assoc. Ski Mount Tremblant, 8h-18h, \$43 transportation, \$15 ski rental, \$29 snowboard rental. Call Ziv: 289-1769 to reserve a seat before Jan. 17.

ONGOING

• Project 10 group for lesbians, bisexuals and women aged 16-25 questioning their sexual orientation. Call 989-4585 13h-17h Monday-Friday.

• Shalom Line accepting volunteers for February training

programme. Call Suzanne Herscovitch: 735-3541, ext. 3380.

• Contactivity looking for volunteers for their Outreach programme. Minimum commitment of six months. Call Joanne: 932-3433.

• Call the LEARN line 931-7434 for info. about literacy services.

• Student playwright seeks female director for McGill drama project dealing with white racism and ghosts on the stage. Call 845-8752.

• Loaf Organic Food Co-op orders produce and bulk dried goods on Mondays, 11h30-17h30, QPIRG office, 3647 University.

Claire G. Cupples, PhD
Associate Professor, Biology

Professor's DNA "repair shop" may help save human lives

"DNA is a genetic database that defines who we are, which is why it is so useful in crime solving," says biology professor Claire Cupples of Concordia University. "Like any database, it must be up-to-date and error free."

Cupples' research on DNA repair in the bacterium *Escherichia coli* contributes to a broader understanding of how certain enzymes snip out damaged sections of genes and fill in the gaps with correct genetic information, thus keeping the DNA "database" current and accurate. In time, this work may provide additional clues about why defects in DNA repair in human cells lead to cancer. That is why the National Cancer Institute of Canada is funding Dr. Cupples' research.

For Maria Koutroumanis, a trilingual second year MSc student in biochemistry, working with Dr. Cupples and being trained in the very latest molecular biology techniques represents "...an outstanding opportunity to get hands-on training in an environment that allows me to develop and prepare for the real world."

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Applications should be received by February 1, 1996 to be considered for Graduate Fellowships.

by M-J Milloy

Sovereignty referendum

Even considering the long, tragic and complicated history of the relationship between native and non-native on Canadian territory, 1995 may still stand out as a watershed year.

The deficit hysteria and the unity of the country overshadowed a number of important events in Canada that will likely effect the First Nations for some time to come.

In Québec, while people debated the merits and basis of creating an independent state, members of the Innu Nation and the Cree Nation voted overwhelmingly to remain a part of Canada.

Leaders from both the Innu and the Cree, however, repeatedly emphasised that they were not voting for the status quo Canada, but rather a renewed federal system with their autonomy recognised.

In British Columbia, the unpopular NDP government used a variety of native stand-offs to score easy political points. An electorate jaded by a succession of scandals and mistakes was swayed by Attorney General Ujal Dosanjh's promise to treat native protesters as "criminals."

Perhaps inspired by the strategy of the BC NDP, the newly-elected premier of Ontario also used a native protest to display that he was truly 'tough on crime.' After peacefully negotiating since the Second World War for the return of some ancestral land, a group of local aboriginal people near Ipperwash, Ontario, formed an encampment on their stolen territory. They were met by the guns of the Ontario Provincial Police, who killed one unarmed protester, Dudley George, before negotiating an end to the stand-off.

Across Canada, the economic inequalities between native and non-native Canadians continued unrelentingly. Economic injustice, combined with social problems and uncaring or hostile non-native governments, has fueled frustration and bitterness in many non-native communities.

The governing Liberals seemed content to ignore this growing wave of resentment in native communities, even when it provided the spark for stand-offs in British Columbia and Ontario. Their latest proposals for aboriginal self-government — released by Ron Irwin, Federal Minister for Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in August — were seen by most as incomplete answers to the growing problems in the relationships between non-native governments and the First Nations.

The national political body representing the First Nations, the Assembly of First Nations, has attempted to defuse the frustration of many native politicians while lobbying the government for meaningful change and dialogue. But the AFN is seen by many native politicians as ineffective. The AFN Grand-Chief, Ovide Mercredi, has been criticised as weak, or worse, irrelevant.

In Québec, the AFN has mainly worked with the various First Nations — the Cree Nation, the Mohawk Nation and the Innu Nation, among others — to resolve economic issues with the federal government, particularly housing and development.

Ghislain Picard has been involved in native politics since he graduated from Manitou College in 1970. As a radio journalist, he helped to establish the first network of native community-based radio stations in the province. He has been the Québec region vice-chief for the AFN for the last several years and has been involved not only in the high-profile 'crisis' — as at Oka and Kahnasatake in 1990 — but also in the daily task of advocating the recognition of aboriginal rights in Québec.

Along with Charles Taylor, Josée Legault and others, Picard appeared at a discussion on the referendum at Moot Court in the final week of the referendum campaign. The *Daily* spoke with Picard about the referendum, criticisms of the AFN, and the future of Canada's relationships with First Nations early last month.

Daily: At the Moot Court discussion on the referendum, there was a lot of discussion about aboriginal issues and how they intersected with the referendum. What seemed strange to me was that most of the discussion did not include you. Aboriginal issues were talked about, but the aboriginal representative was not a part of the discussion. Do you think that mirrored the broader debate about Québec sovereignty?

Picard: Certainly. I think that the reluctance to talk to a b o r i g i n a l representatives was a large part of the federalist and sovereigntist discussions about the debate. The Québec government never once said: "Is this something that will satisfy aboriginal people?" There was a double standard throughout the referendum campaign. They continually reinforced their right to struggle for their own self determination, yet they went ahead with their plans as if we had no choice in the matter, no voice in the outcome, no self-determination of our own.

How do you view the results of the referendum? Is the narrow federalist 'victory' something that is good for aboriginal people?

Not really. To some extent I think that a Yes vote would have been welcome, as well.

When the current Québec government was elected, there was some hope in aboriginal communities that maybe the sovereigntists would be forced to face aboriginal issues. They might have been forced to face the reality of this province — that there are many different nations in this province, not only the Québécois nation but also the various First Nations. This, I had hoped, would have led to more discussions, more negotiations, over the future of this province.

But with the referendum

result, there is more uncertainty about not only the future of Québec, but also the place of the First Nations. Québec is going to be much more demanding, and Canada seems to be willing to offer more to maintain unity. If they deal with Québec and give it what it wants, what will happen to all other issues, like First Nations issues?

Because of the social and economic problems in aboriginal communities, the communities feel that things need to happen. If non-native governments do not listen, they will continue to give reasons to many First Nations to end discussion over common issues.

A common federalist argument that I heard repeatedly, especially from progressive people and activists, was that separatists were anti-native, and that sovereignty was unacceptable because it refused to allow for the self-determination of First Nations. Are you more comfortable with the federal system, in particular the current Liberal government?

Chrétien came to power three years ago, and his Red Book of promises had many commitments to aboriginal issues, particularly economic and self-determination issues. Since then, his government has not respected a single promise to aboriginal people. They promised more funding for post-secondary education for First Nations people, for example, and that has not occurred.

I see a certain fear in the government to enforce aboriginal concerns and claims. Because of this, there is a growing tension between the government and the national aboriginal leadership and communities. This is especially true in certain provinces, like Québec. The Liberals are afraid to look too lenient towards aboriginal

groups, and they have not put too much faith in their negotiations with the First Nations. [Federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ron] Irwin is a good example of this.

Last fall, very quietly, Irwin released a policy document on self-determination. In many ways it was the most far-reaching policy document since the early days of the Trudeau administration. It respects the right to self-determination that is recognised in the Constitution. What is your reaction to the policy?

Irwin, and his government, have adopted the same attitude as the Québec government. They are saying to us: "This is how far you can go with the idea of self-determination." Self-determination, in this policy, is not what we expect or want, it is a very limited form of government that does not respect our traditions or history.

What I can see in many aboriginal nations is a growing attitude of enough is enough. Instead of being willing to negotiate with non-native governments, aboriginal nations are working to implement their own authority, based on traditional and modern views of government.

Because of the social and economic problems in aboriginal communities, the communities feel that things need to happen. If non-native governments do not listen, they will continue to give reasons to many First Nations to end discussion over common issues.

Since the 'Oka Crisis' of five years ago, there seems to be a growing division in the aboriginal political community. On one side are 'moderate' politicians who believe in negotiation and compromise to achieve greater rights for aboriginal

Eighty after the

Im

Interview with Ghislain Picard, vice-chief of the Assembly of First Nations

communities. On the other side are 'traditionalists', like the Longhouse and the Warriors in Mohawk Territory, and the Sundancers at Gustafsen Lake in British Columbia. They believe that the solution to native political problems lies in reaffirming traditional forms of government, and that all modern native political organisations, like yours, the AFN, are part of the problem. What do you feel about this split?

My personal view is that these sovereigntist groups do not follow the main current of political views in most aboriginal communities, but that the exasperation that they feel over the situation of native people in Canada is legitimate.

The modern aboriginal political movement has been around for about 40 years. In that time, what are the achievements? Look at the problems our communities still face: Housing is awful, the quality of education is deplorable. We are a long way from attaining a standard of life that most other Canadians enjoy.

But I think that the sovereigntists go a little too far in their methods to attain these goals. But they do raise a serious point: At this point in the relationship between aboriginal nations and non-native peoples, we need to see significant improvement in our status and quality of life. Aboriginal people need to be involved in the future

of these concerns?

All this questioning of the organisation is a normal process. It is normal that national organisations must evolve and change over time.

Our existence has been in question for a number of years, but never as much as today. Some of that comes from concepts and notions that we are revisiting, like nationhood. What constitutes a nation? Since 1990 [and the 'Oka Crisis'], more and more aboriginal communities and people feel that is how they should represent themselves, not as part of a national movement but as an individual nation.

In Québec, for example, there are 10 aboriginal nations. Never would I think to call myself their sole representative; all 10 can do that themselves. No-one can speak for all the nations.

How do you think the situation for First Nations in Québec differs from the situation in the rest of Canada?

Obviously, the situation regarding separation is different for us than other First Nations groups. It is a unique situation, and it brings the various First Nations closer because of it. The First Nations do come together as a group to discuss common issues. Self-

sentiment amongst non-native Canadians against native claims and concerns. The Reform Party and the Ontario and BC provincial governments, for example, are using this backlash to score

At this point in the relationship between aboriginal nations and non-native peoples, we need to see significant improvement in our status and quality of life. Aboriginal people need to be involved in the future direction of this country.

political points by being 'tough on the Indian problem.' Do you see the same thing?

I think that it is necessary to look at the majority of people in Canada. I don't believe that people are negative as much as they are ignorant; they are influenced easily by these governments because they are not aware of some of the deeper issues and history. The media, as well, plays an important role, and I am not sure that they always play it right.

For example, look at how much we publicise the economic discrepancies between aboriginal people and non-native Canadians. But it is really easy for some to get a negative feeling to these concerns. They say we pay no tax, that we have free housing and free education, and it is really easy to use that to stir a bad feeling in public opinion.

Given the economic and social problems that many First Nations face, and the current political climate in this country, are you very optimistic about the future for First Nations?

I think that improvement, like self-determination and economic factors, is still possible. But it is going to take a good degree of will to do it. I think people have to come to a realisation that as a society, we have all been victims of what has been forced onto

aboriginal people.

For too long we were looked at as only part of the landscape. Nothing was there. We had the Indian Act: legislation which was only designed to push us aside.

We learned many things from the society around us, but they have learned nothing from us. For the improvement of this society there has to be a will to better educate themselves. As

aboriginal people, if given the chance, we can bring a lot to the Canadian fabric.

Georges Erasmus, the last leader of the AFN, warned Prime Minister Mulroney in the late 1980s that his generation would be the last generation prepared to sit down and negotiate with non-native governments. What do you think the next generation of native leaders will do?

The young generation, the generation to come, has more convictions about what to have happen. My own generation, and the two or three before mine, were confronted with a choice: Either they could attempt to preserve a traditional lifestyle in the face of the pressures of the non-native world, or they could move into a non-native world and lifestyle and attempt to become successful outside of an aboriginal environment, without aboriginal values. That fundamental choice was every person's fate.

In any case they lost something. But the young people of today have less pressure to make that choice. More are retaining their languages. There are more culturally-oriented institutions that young people can take advantage of. We have, in some places, an educational system that reflects who we are.

As well, the growing

awareness of environmental issues is important. Now young people can integrate that in all aspects of their life. They are bringing new ideas into their communities — like for economic development — that would have been harder to apply with earlier generations.

How does education fit into the efforts of aboriginal organisations? What has been the role of non-native education in creating some of the current problems in native communities?

I feel very strongly that education has an important place to play in helping aboriginal people overcome some of the obstacles that we face in building healthy communities.

In the early 1970s I attended Manitou College [one of the first educational institutions set up to reflect aboriginal views of community, knowledge and education]. Originally the idea was to give opportunity a common place to share and strengthen our values as aboriginal people. But I also learned other things about the non-native world. I was not as isolated from the Canadian society.

Native studies programmes, for example, are another good example of how changing the type of education can help everyone come to a better understanding about aboriginal issues and concerns. In these places, in many cases, there are students who are going to school outside the reserve for the first time. But there are also non-native students; basically whoever wanted to attend class.

For so long, education for aboriginal people was a one-way street. We were taught everything about the non-native world, while we lived in ignorance of our own traditions and knowledge. That is changing, and it is all a part of the changes that have to take place in our communities and in Canada.

direction of this country.

The AFN has been criticised as being cut off from 'ordinary' aboriginal people, as being too hierarchical and not willing to follow a radical course. What do you think

government, for example, is a common concern of all the First Nations, but they each have their own issues which they bring to the table.

There seems to be a growing

Don't touch that button

by Jacqueline Reis

Sometimes it seems like buying a copy machine would be cheaper than shopping at the McGill bookstore. With some textbook prices reaching over \$100, a trip to the bookstore can require some students to spend almost half as much on books as they do on tuition.

As a result, many students turn to the copy machines available on campus and in downtown copy shops for a financial alternative.

It's easy: Buy the book, photocopy it and then return it.

If, for example, a science textbook costs \$120 and is 1 000 pages long, someone photocopying it for \$.05 a copy (a high estimate) would pay only \$50, which is not bad. And only slightly illegal.

"Technically, when a student comes to use a photocopying machine, for example, they're subject to federal law," said Mike Renshawe, a librarian at McGill. "There's a limit to how much you can copy for personal use [but] none of this is clearly spelled out [in the law]."

"It's very tempting for a student who sees a price tag of \$85 on a textbook... I think it's a horrible thing," said Horst Bitschofsky, general manager of the McGill bookstore. "It seems obvious that you should be able to copy a \$80 textbook at the copy shop for \$.03 a page."

He added that such practices have contributed to a decline in textbook sales.

"Certainly the sales of textbooks have continued to decline over the past five years, and I think most of that decline can be attributed to the growth of very inexpensive, very rapid photocopying," Bitschofsky continued.

The manager also stated that some course materials were quite obviously being copied, as their sales were noticeably lower than anticipated.

According to Renshawe, the Copyright Act seems to indicate that it is acceptable for a student to copyright part of a work for his or her personal use so long as they do not copy the entire work.

The Act states that "any fair dealing with any work for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, review or newspaper summary" does not constitute an infringement of copyright.

In other words, a student copying material for him or herself is acting legally, within limits. A copy centre that makes several copies of a

textbook in the anticipation that they will be purchased, however, is not.

But much about copyrights remains to be clarified, and the issue is rapidly becoming murkier by the advent of on-line transmission of materials.

McGill is currently looking into the issue of copyrights on two fronts. The first of these is a Senate subcommittee whose goal is to create a policy that will apply to all sectors of the University, from sheet music for ensembles to conference materials.

Renshawe will be chairing the committee for this year, as the former chair, Blaine Baker,

is currently on sabbatical. Renshawe said the committee had yet to meet and does not expect its work to be completed anytime this year.

between universities in the province and the Union des Écrivains Québécois.

UNEQ is a collective of Québec writers and publishers,

through which they negotiate and collect their royalties. Mercille explained that UNEQ has a reciprocity agreement with the collective's counterpart in the rest of Canada, Can-Copy, that allows all universities to use texts

from across the country. Other agreements admit texts from other nations.

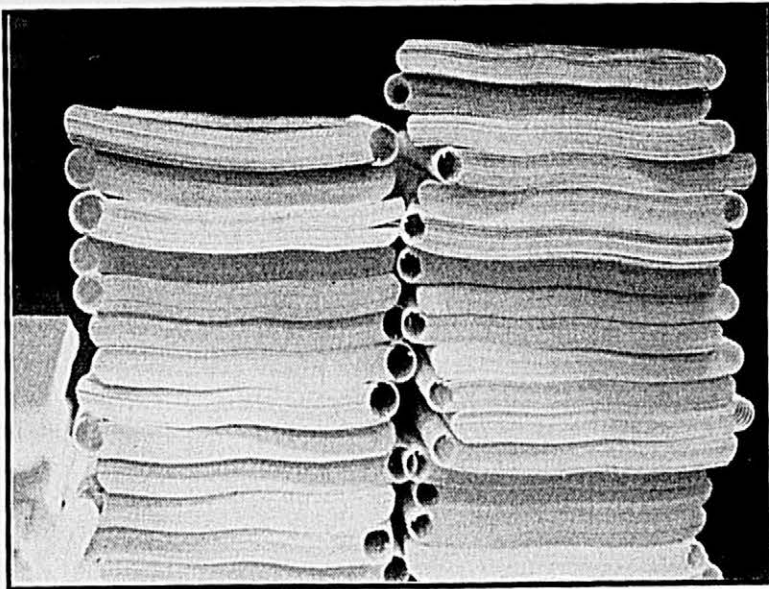
Mercille said this time the negotiators are trying to simplify the regulations and

incorporate issues of electronic transmission of works as well.

"We want to cover the electronic part of it. The current agreement was for paper only," said Mercille. "The bargaining at the University level is going well, and we're optimistic that we'll reach an agreement by the end of this year."

But neither of these efforts seem to address the motivation behind the huge amounts of photocopying: textbook prices that are too steep for student budgets.

Bitschofsky sees some light at the end of the tunnel. "I think some of the larger publishing houses are now a bit more interested [so] that 10 publishers in Canada don't all need to [produce] a first-year economics book," he said, noting that when the market narrows to a few publishers, those firms will be able to produce economies of scale, hopefully driving book prices down.



All that copying adds up

DAILY PHOTO BY MIKE CULLEN

McGill's is also looking into revising its relationship with Québec writers. The University's legal advisor, Raynald Mercille, is currently negotiating a new agreement

POVERTY GROUP WILL HELP TENANTS FIGHT EVICTIONS

by Simone A. Brown

Toronto (CUP)—One of Ontario's main anti-poverty groups is about to begin fighting poverty on a new front by helping tenants hit by welfare cuts fight evictions.

The initiative is one part of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty's (OCAP) broad campaign against the provincial government's welfare cuts, says John Clarke, the group's provincial organiser.

Last year, Mike Harris' Conservative government cut welfare benefits by 20 per cent.

"We must defend people hurt by the cuts and people being forced out of their homes," said Clarke.

Clarke says the cuts have made it difficult for people to pay their rent and have forced people out of their homes.

"With the welfare cuts, we are faced with a situation where huge amounts of people aren't able to afford their rent," he said.

Clarke says the coalition plans to assist tenants facing eviction by trying to negotiate a rent reduction with landlords.

But if landlords refuse to cooperate, more radical techniques are being planned. Coalition members will go

to the landlord's home or workplace to pressure them to stop an eviction and, if necessary, will organise blockades to keep authorities

involve the use of violence.

She adds that she agrees that welfare cuts and increased poverty are forcing more people to leave their homes.

"Sometimes extreme measures need to be taken to send a message. If people are being evicted it's because they ran out of money. [Landlords] aren't dealing with people who are scamming," she said.

Noting that the coalition's approach will also attract public



from enforcing eviction orders, says Clarke.

He adds that the coalition's overall goal is to force the Harris government to rescind the welfare cuts.

Barbara Hurd, co-coordinator of the United Tenants of Ontario, says she fully endorses OCAP's approach to help people fight evictions as long as it does not

attention to an important issue, Hurd added, "They are using an individual problem to highlight a systemic problem."

But landlords say that pressuring them to reduce rent because of the welfare cuts is unfair.

Glenn Rumbell, president of Rent Check Credit Bureau, says landlords are placed in a

bind. Their costs are not decreasing while demands for lower rent grow.

He says many landlords are small home owners who have many expenses to pay and cannot afford to reduce rents.

"No one is giving them a break, so I think it's unfair to ask them to give others a break. The bank doesn't give them a break on mortgages, the city doesn't give them a break on property taxes," said Rumbell.

"If landlords go bankrupt, no one helps them."

The solution to the problem is not to pressure landlords, but to either have the government increase its welfare rates or help landlords reduce their expenses, says Rumbell.

Ania Baska, a Toronto property manager, agrees.

She says many landlords have already been forced to charge rents lower than they should be.

And when tenants start to default on their rent, it is very difficult for

landlords to pay expenses, Baska adds.

"People assume landlords are rich and can pay, but that's not true. They aren't protected in anyway," she said.

Source: The Varsity

HOMELESS DEATHS ON TORONTO STREETS

COALITION DEMANDS CORONER'S INQUEST

by Idella Sturino

Everyone agrees that Toronto has been cold, but the city's homeless are the ones who can't escape it.

Last Friday, over 200 homeless people, social service, health care and community workers held a press conference in a downtown Toronto drop-in centre to demand a Coroner's inquest into the deaths of Brent Simms and Eugene Upper, two homeless men who died on the streets in the past two weeks.

The causes of deaths of the two men remain unclear. However, some community workers believe both men froze to death under different circumstances — Upper after having to sleep out in the cold and Simms through lying out in the street, injured by a car which had struck him earlier.

Jack Layton, a Toronto metro councillor who spoke at the press conference, said of the reason behind the demands for an inquest "When people start freezing in a city's streets all of us need

to ask... 'Why are some of us not able to afford a roof over their heads?'"

Layton added that one answer to this is the series of massive cutbacks to social spending introduced by the provincial government over the past six months, a cause he hopes the Chief Coroner's Office will consider in a potential inquiry.

In a press statement, Cathy Crowe, a nurse who works with the downtown homeless, implored the Chief Coroner to "uncover the conditions related to the deaths."

"These deaths are all preventable," she added.

Crowe referred to the fact that the homeless die at a younger age than the general population, and from causes people with housing are less affected by, such as exposure to cold, homicides and injuries.

Following the press conference, which caught the attention of many Toronto media outlets, participants marched to the Coroner's office where they presented a

petition and letter demanding the inquests.

Gaetan Heroux, co-ordinator of Toronto's Central Neighbourhood House and participant in the demonstration, said the group would return to the Coroner's office if no action is taken within two weeks.

According to Heroux, Central Neighbourhood House, a day-time shelter for homeless people, has seen a 20 per cent increase in the number of people using its services since last year. Heroux said he is concerned by the increase as it has brought the number of people using the centre's services during peak hours up to 140, a jump from last year's 80.

Heroux mentioned that other shelters in the city as well as hospitals have seen similar rises in homeless people seeking their help.

Like Layton, Heroux cited the gutting of the province's social services — including massive reductions to welfare payments and a halt to the construction of non-profit

housing — as a major cause for the increase.

Heroux commented that the deep spending cuts initiated by Mike Harris' Conservative government have "pushed more people into homelessness" by forcing poor people to choose between paying rent or buying food.

Unaffordable Toronto rent-rates and a decrease in vacancies, a freeze on the creation of non-profit housing units and new regulations which make it harder to get welfare cheques have all exacerbated the problem of homelessness in the city.

"There's no way out, no future" Heroux said of what these changes mean for the city's poor, adding that the Harris agenda is "going to cause a lot of misery."

But participants in Friday's demonstration demanded some temporary solutions to the poverty caused in part by the province's slash and burn directives.

Aside from calling for inquests into the broader causes of the men's deaths,

Layton said the province must restore its funding to an overnight homeless hotline.

Three days before the deaths, the province cut its partial funding of the poorly advertised line, which was intended to allow bystanders to report cases of homeless people dying or in danger on the streets.

The coalition also called for funding for affordable housing for homeless people.

Heroux agreed that projects like the hotline are important, but pointed out that they should not be the focus of demands. Instead, he focused on the need to address the long process which drives homeless people to the streets — a process which has been pushed over the edge by recent welfare cuts.

The community worker and activist added that the message he thought was sent on Friday was a strong one. "We won't let our people freeze or die on the streets of Toronto, we'll fight back to make sure that doesn't happen."

They're used but not used up

Book service gives students a break on high-priced texts

By Roberta Laucke

In September, the Students' Society of McGill University gave students the chance to buy and sell their books at cheaper prices in their own University Centre. Now they're doing it again.

SSMU's Used Textbook Coop was created to increase the quality of campus life and provide a service that many other universities already have.

According to Mark Feldman, manager of the service, demand for the coop was high.

"We did two surveys... [asking] students to rank their priorities of services. The used textbook service was most requested... The service is helpful because it saves students a lot of money," he said.

"It is a good alternative to buying new textbooks at the McGill Bookstore for a million dollars. We recycle our books and students who sell books set their own prices. I think that is the best thing," agreed Karen Klug, a third year student in humanistic studies

who works at the service.

Feldman added that the coop also lets students get more money for texts they no longer need.

Most students currently sell their texts to the McGill bookstore and receive 50 per cent of the used book's value. The McGill Bookstore then resells the same book for 75 per cent of its value, making a neat profit.

SSMU's textbook exchange service takes just 15 per cent commission on each book it sells and leaves the student with 85 per cent of the money.

"We take 15 per cent to cover costs. We can make more money for students and sell for cheaper" Feldman explained. The commission taken off the sold price is used to cover the costs of renting a computer and an interact machine and printing posters.

Hearing about SSMU's new service, Horst Bitschofsky, manager of the McGill Bookstore, asked Feldman to rethink the service.

"He was telling us that we shouldn't be doing it because the used books they receive are \$50 000 of their business, and they barely break even,

But Bitschofsky insists that having another used bookstore creates an environment that is competitive and unfair. "I thought we were supposed to work together and not to compete," he said.

"The McGill Bookstore is at a disadvantage for many reasons. We spend time doing a lot of things here. It is also difficult for us to control what we buy," Bitschofsky continued.

SSMU's Used Textbook Coop operates within the first three weeks of school. This is when students can buy and sell any text for any class. Books which cannot be sold are returned to the student, ensuring

that she or he has nothing to lose when trying to sell a text.

"The only money we're earning is to cover our expenses... I myself do not drink beer and we are not

planning any parties" Klug said.

Aside from buying and selling books, the textbook exchange also offers students with limited budgets and little extra time the opportunity to join a campus activity and get paid for it. Each semester the coop provides 20 students with part-time jobs.

"It is a good thing. We set our own hours. We can change our hours from week to week when the month gets too busy. It is a very flexible schedule," said Jenny Theodomis, a second year management student who works at the service.

Textbooks presently available at the coop include books for management, science, continuing education courses and more. Once the final details have been ironed out, Feldman and his colleagues are hoping to expand their hours and the variety of books sold.

SSMU's used textbook coop is now open from 10h-17h, Monday-Friday in Shatner 108.



stacking books at SSMU's textbook exchange

and they have to pay their mortgage....

"He also said we're only going to take the money and spend it on beer," Feldman alleged.

CENSORED STORIES

pressure on the paper."

The result: a paper more concerned with catering to the agenda of industry and government, and less concerned with informing the public about crucial issues in public debate.

JOURNALISTS JUST GLORIFIED STENOGRAPHERS

The cause of the omissions of the stories in the recent Project Censored Canada list are not only due to corporate control of newspapers and other media, but also due to the way journalists are taught and carry out their duties, according to Goldberg.

"Emerging reporters are not encouraged to show any investigative zeal" either in journalism schools or in newspapers, according to Goldberg.

"They are not taught that they should question all institutions of power: governmental, corporate, religious," she said.

Although the corporate agenda has influenced journalists, they are also at fault for not "constantly probing and doubting information from all power sources," she said.

"Why are all the experts quoted in mainstream papers from business, government or

academia? Statements are sometimes regurgitated without question, and journalists have become glorified stenographers," said Goldberg.

Lindsay Chrysler, a professor at Concordia's journalism school, disagrees with some of Goldberg's criticisms.

"Journalists are human beings, too, and sometimes they don't have the energy to

that the practice of journalism sometimes limits reporters from doing more investigative work. Chrysler agreed that 'pack journalism' develops around major stories, and that reporters are only interested in beating the competition to a story, and not following leads that may be unproductive, or against their editor's wishes.

Chrysler also feels that stories go unreported because of the "Toronto syndrome."

"The Toronto syndrome is the feeling that if something happens outside of Toronto, it didn't really happen," he said.

Ironically, the slashing of the resources of many newspapers — from cutting the number of reporters to increasing the amount of news stories from wire services — has also played a part in the absence of more

investigative, or activist, news stories, according to Chrysler.

"In the last four or five years, the amount of resources available to newspapers has diminished," said Chrysler.

As a result, "there is less digging being done for news stories. The Gazette, for example, only has three people in their investigative units, and they are not even devoted full-time to investigation," said Chrysler.

9 of 10 stories on this year's censored list are directly or indirectly related to economic concerns, leading some commentators to suggest that growing corporate control of the Canadian media is at the heart of the reason for omissions.

dig up all of the stories," he said.

He agreed, however, that many journalism schools do not provide adequate, or any, training in advocacy or investigative work.

"We don't have any courses in it," he said. "We try and train people to be really good reporters, and foster a state of mind to make them always go after news."

Chrysler further agreed

brief

YALE TAs ON STRIKE

Ivy league school bans student

"Guilty of disobeying an order issued in the line of duty." It sounds like a ruling against a member of the military. In fact, this was the ruling issued last week against a Yale graduate student by her administration.

Yale University brought disciplinary charges against three of its over 200 striking teaching assistants on January 10. The administration found one striker "guilty of disobeying an order issued in the line of duty by a faculty member," and barred her from teaching in the spring semester.

The union of TAs voted to strike last December by refusing to turn in the grades of the courses they teach.

According to Gordon Lafer of the Yale Federation of University Employees, the TA union is striking because Yale has refused to recognise the union. Lafer was one of the

graduate students in Social Sciences and Humanities that voted 600 to 166 to unionise in 1990.

"138 protesters were arrested for blocking the street," said Lafer, referring to a nonviolent protest staged outside of the Yale building where the disciplinary hearing was taking place.

Lafer said that 600 graduate students and university employees from Yale and other schools gathered to stand up to the Ivy League university's threats against the striking TAs.

Yale president Richard Levine sent a letter informing TAs that anyone not turning in grades by the day before the hearing would be banned from teaching this semester.

"This is a serious threat," said Lafer. "In the worst case, for people who have no other means of support, or for foreign students whose visas

prohibit them from working outside the university, being blacklisted from teaching jobs may make it impossible to continue in graduate school."

Lafer pointed to the illegality of firing a TA for participating in a strike.

From the university's point of view, TA's are not employees, but students. Yale sees being a TA as part of the education of its graduate students.

Lafer also pointed out that the barred TA has no way of appealing the university's decision.

"The [Disciplinary] Committee can impose any penalty up to and including expulsion," he said.

In response to the university's decision to ban the TA from teaching, charges have been filed against Yale with the U.S. federal labour relations board.

—by Zachary Schwartz

The McGill Daily

Project Censored Canada's list of the 10 most under- reported stories in the Canadian media for 1995

1. Cleaning up after AECL
Did you know the Crown Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd. requires almost \$300 million to clean up old nuclear facilities?
2. Canada's Own Free Trade Deal

The Inter-Provincial Trade Agreement — signed in 1994 to eliminate barriers to trade between provinces — may reduce the provinces' ability to legislate standards for labour practices and the environment.

3. South battles GATT over patenting

Under the Global Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), plant extracts and their genetic code can be patented by northern multinationals, endangering the intellectual property of indigenous peoples.

4. Professional and corporate crime

Non-violent crime by professionals and corporations may be costing Canada billions of dollars.

5. Tobacco companies and cigarette smuggling

Although the 'smuggling' of cigarettes by aboriginal communities was widely reported, the complicity of large cigarette companies in the smuggling racket went under-reported.

6. Reducing interest rates to reduce the debt

An alternative plan for deficit reduction — low interest loans provided by the Bank of Canada — would relieve calls for spending cuts but has received scant media attention.

7. The Canadian Wildlife Federation hides its hunting connection

Did you know this group — dedicated to helping preserve animals — is actually run by hunters?

8. The World Bank funds forced resettlement

The World Bank, with financial backing from donor nations like Canada, is funding development projects that will force millions of people off of their land to make way for the building of over 100 hydroelectric dams.

9. Is fish farming a biological time bomb?

Canada could risk environmental disaster if it does not impose more stringent controls on its fish farming industry.

10. Chiapas and NAFTA

Mexican and Canadian authorities have tried to separate NAFTA and the Chiapas rebellion, as well as denying any link between trade and human rights concerns.

continued from page 1

libraries

ter library in Westmount and the Central Li-brary east of downtown.

Fotopulos comments that "McGill Metro library did not serve justice to downtown, but it was there and available."

After all, she continues, "To read and write is not a bad concept. In fact, it is something that should be pro-moted. All these things have to be brought to the forefront, and people have to decide how we can get our library system into better shape."

In a similar vein, Rotrand points to the increasing necessity of libraries in the information age.

"With the accelerating information revolution and the growth of what is available on the internet, the library of the future will have to offer far more varied access to information and services available today," says Rotrand.

Bourque's priorities have come under fire from many in the Montréal Urban Community. While claiming libraries must be closed due to budgetary restrictions, the Mayor has spent freely on other things.

Last fall, the administration approved \$400 000 to be spent on a new municipal slogan, and in December, City Hall was newly decorated with silicon Christmas lights at a cost of \$300 000. "Mayor Bourque is reneging on all the promises he made with regard to cultural matters, yet he has been able to come up with money for projects that are close to his heart: Christmas lights around City Hall, his Botanical Garden — his tree house — which, though a wonderful concept, could well be postponed in order to make it a regional facility instead of one financed strictly by taxpayers," says Fotopulos.

The Botanical Gardens, which Bourque directed before being elected mayor last year, will receive \$40 million this year for its scientific installations.

Libraries, on the other hand, will have to make do with \$25 million.

"Ask yourself, where are the priorities? The libraries are our responsibility; the Botanical Gardens are not," says Fotopulos.

The next step, according to Fotopulos, is for the public to prepare for the Bourque administration's promised public debate on the library issue. She urges the public to organise and to prepare for this event, the date of which is still unclear.

Fotopulos emphasises the importance of public involvement. "It's only when things are to be closed that people wake up and start wondering. Now is the time for people to take control, to offer their ideas and to organise and mobilise around the issues."

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Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. **McGill Students & Staff** (with valid ID): \$4.55 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.00 per day. **General Public**: \$5.70 per day, or \$4.85 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, and prices do not include applicable GST (7%) or PST (6.5%). Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. **PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER.** The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will reappear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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